



## **League in Action**

January 4, 2023

### **President's Message**

Happy New Year! It is going to be a busy one as **we will have to provide voting information including all of the new districts** we will have in Arlington and Alexandria City in the November elections. **The entire House and Senate of Virginia will be up for election – on new maps.** In addition, the **June primaries will be run on Ranked Choice Voting** for the first time. So, we are calling on everyone dedicated to voting to be on call!

In addition, **we will have several exciting programs coming up** due to our work with the Returning Citizens Coalitions in Arlington and Alexandria City and there are going to be more expungement programs.

It is exciting that we will be able to be so involved in the voting process!

Also, remember to **check the days for the 2023 General Assembly that begins on January 11.** There will be a Women's Legislative Roundtable (hybrid) starting on Jan 11 and in person League Day is Jan 25. Let's descend on Richmond and let them know what the League cares for.

**Thanks** for all you do!

Joan

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## **LEAGUE DAY IS IN PERSON THIS YEAR!**

League Day – the day when LWV Virginia members go to Richmond to advocate for the issues important to us before the General Assembly is January 25. **We have some grant money** to help with expenses and would like to have a large contingent of members there like we did in the pre-COVID world.

**We will arrange for carpools** if needed. Let's get back to pre-COVID NUMBERS!

Please fill out this Sign-Up Genius to let us know if you are coming and if you need carpools, rooms etc.

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**Call for volunteers**

## **LWV VA new Issue Group on Reproductive Health**

*by Debby Churchman*

**Dobbs got you down?** In 2020, Virginia became the first state in the South to actively support a pregnant person's access to an abortion, thanks to the Reproductive Health Protection Act. That law is still in force, but under threat, thanks to the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v Wade. Governor Youngkin has stated his support for a 15-week abortion ban, and put together a workgroup composed of four members, tasked with drafting

and carrying a bill in the 2023 session. And legislation is already being pre-filed regarding reproductive health. Here's HB1395: ***Rights beginning at conception.*** *Provides that life begins at conception and each person is accorded the same rights and protections guaranteed to all persons by the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Virginia, and the laws of the Commonwealth beginning at the moment of conception. The bill also repeals all provisions of the Code of Virginia allowing for the performance of abortions.*

Interested? **The State League's new issue group on Reproductive Health meets the first Wednesday of every month by Zoom.** Next meeting is Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact **Debby Churchman** ([dchurchm@yahoo.com](mailto:dchurchm@yahoo.com)) or **Grace Lawler** ([lawlergrace07@gmail.com](mailto:lawlergrace07@gmail.com)).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you were at our October 16 Membership Meeting, you heard **Don Gurney** speak of the **need to expand our voter services program**. As he said, "What we have was sustainable when we had 80 members, not when we have 250."

None of these require much time and most are "seasonal." We can use more people to work on:

- **Candidate forums held prior to the primary and general elections**
- **Reaching out to large corporations moving into the area**

- **Outreach to condominiums**
- **Outreach to farmers markets**
- **Preparing voter education materials**

**We also need a co-chair for our student chapter building project!**

Please let **Don** know at [lwarlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:lwarlingtonva@gmail.com) if you have interest or questions

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## **Arlington Community Reentry Coalition**

We have been invited to be a part of a new coalition being formed in Arlington to address issues facing recently released prisoners (returning citizens).

The coalition, called the Arlington Community Reentry Coalition is made up of representatives of various agencies in Arlington who work in support of recently released former convicts to the Arlington community. The coalition incorporates a variety of social agencies including the local police department, public defender's office, Catholic Charities, Spread the Vote, AFAC and AHC along with the League and others.

We will be providing information on the restoration of rights and voting information, (of course). **They are planning a fair on Feb 18** for families or incarcerated people and returning citizens and which we will have a booth.

**We need people** who can help work on this information and put together

packets that we can provide these people. Please email [LWVArlingtonVA@gmail.com](mailto:LWVArlingtonVA@gmail.com) for more information.

We have made contact with the Alexandria Coalition and they are having a spring event - stay tuned.

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## **Sips and Civility – The Revival!!!!**

Due to COVID 19, we had to stop our popular Sips and Civility Program. This is designed to introduce topics to the public that might be a bit controversial in a civilized setting and fashion. We had a great turnout for our “Dillon Rule” event just before everything closed.

**We are grateful that Sampriti Ganguli has agreed to chair the revised Sips committee and she has two great ideas, one of a Money in Politics event and another for look at City Council vs County Board rule. She can use some help with event planning, menus, speakers etc. This is a fun project. If interested or you want to learn more contact her - [sampriti@gmail.com](mailto:sampriti@gmail.com)**

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**If you are not already a member of LWV Arlington and Alexandria, please consider joining!**

We are turning up our voter registration events and our Get Out the Vote programs. It is all hands on deck for Democracy! Active students ages 16 - 26 pay no dues and we have scholarships available for anyone who needs one. Contact LWVvarlingtonva@gmail.com for information.

[Join or donate to the League!](#)

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## EVENTS

**Jan 11, Jan 18, Feb 1, Feb 8**

### **2023 General Assembly Legislative Roundtables!**

**Join us for the WLRTs** - everyone is encouraged to come to Richmond to amplify our voices. We will get updates from legislators and our partner groups on the bills relating to our legislative priorities.

**All 8:30 – 9:30 AM. Hybrid**

**January 11, 2023**

- Remove witness requirement for absentee ballot envelopes
- Funding of elections (including amending or repealing Zucker Buck bill passed in 2022 session, SB80)

**January 18, 2023**

- Push for campaign finance reform
- Support RCV (ranked choice voting)

**February 1, 2023**

- Support funding of public education and not diverting funds to private education
- Protecting RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative)

**February 8, 2023**

- Support right to marry amendment
- GVP (ghost guns, secure storage, GVP Center)

[RSVP here](#)

**Jan 15**

**LWV of Arlington and Alexandria City Day of Action  
and Program Planning Meeting**

**It Is Time for Advocacy!**

**Our first in person Day of Action in three years**

Mark your calendars for January 15, 2023. Come and bring your friends and family to our day of action – postcard and email event!

Whether you are interested in supporting Ranked Choice Voting, the National Popular Vote, affordable housing, campaign finance, the right to marry, women's reproductive rights, gun safety, environmental justice, returning citizens or anti-racism activities, join us! You can write a postcard, (or email if you bring your Ipad or phone). We will also have information on how you can write letters to the editor and take other actions!

This is your chance to catch up on the legislation moving through the General Assembly and to make an impact!

**Our Day of Action starts at 2:30 PM at the Shirlington Library.**

**From 2:00 - 2:30 P there will be our annual Program Planning Review** when we will get an update on the Planning Program Study now underway and review any existing positions of ours -

(available at <https://my.lwv.org/node/25657/positions>)

and LWV VA -

(available at <https://lwv-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/LWV-VA-Pos-In-Brief-2021-June-21-Final.pdf>) for possible review.

**RSVP Here - Bring Your Friends**

**Jan 25**

**Our First in Person League Day (Day of Advocacy) in 2 years!!**



Jan 25 8:30A – 11:30 AM  
Suntrust Building Auditorium – Richmond

It is our day to make our voices heard in Richmond with our first in person League Day in 2 years!

**A buffet breakfast is provided**

Our focus topics are:

- **Supporting right to vote amendment**
- **Protecting reproductive rights**

We will have the opportunity to attend the General Assembly session and visit the offices of our legislators!

**Join us!**

\$20

[RSVP here](#)

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**News from National**

**Electoral Count Reform Act Passes in Senate  
Omnibus Bill**

12/22/2022

WASHINGTON — Today the League of Women Voters of the United States CEO **Virginia Kase Solomón** issued the following statement after Senate passage of the omnibus appropriations bill that includes the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act.

[Read the press release here](#)

## LWV US 2022 Hightlights

[Read the Highlights here](#)



## LWV VA Virginia Voter January, 2023

[Read the Voter here](#)

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## Meeting

**February 19 - 2 PM - Book Group**

Due to the Day of Action, we won't meet in January.

The book is *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah Jones

Contact Joan [LWV Arlingtonva@gmail.com](mailto:LWV Arlingtonva@gmail.com)

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## Look for next newsletter January 18

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